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Sub-Commission on Prevention of
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of Minorities
Forty-sixth session
Item 16 of the provisional agenda

# CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

## Note by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 3 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/27 and paragraphs 25 and 26 of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities resolution 1993/5

1. The Commission on Human Rights, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 1993/27, requested the Secretary-General to invite States parties to the Slavery Convention of 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery of 1956 and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949 to submit to the Sub-Commission regular reports on the situation in their countries, as provided for under the Conventions and in Economic and Social Council decision 16 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, which contains the mandate of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

2. Similarly, the Sub-Commission, in paragraph 25 of its resolution 1993/5, recommended that the Secretary-General again request the States parties to the international conventions on slavery to submit to it, at regular intervals, reports on the situation in their countries.

3. Moreover, the Sub-Commission, in paragraph 26 of resolution 1993/5, requested the Secretary-General again to invite annually States which have not acceded to or have not ratified the international conventions on slavery to explain why they had not done so and to report on their replies to the

Sub-Commission and to the Commission, and to extend a similar invitation to States which had not ratified the International Labour Organisation conventions on forced labour.

4. The Secretary-General extended these invitations in a note verbale dated 25 October 1993. The Secretary-General has received replies from the following countries: Canada, the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Philippines, Spain and Switzerland. Those replies that had arrived in time were reproduced in a document of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1994/4), which is available in the files of the secretariat. The replies that arrived later, which are also available in the files of the secretariat, will be issued as a document of the Working Group for its 1995 session.

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# QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF DETAINEES

Note verbale dated 10 May 1994 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Centre for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the Centre for Human Rights and, further to our letter N.94/127, dated 2 May 1994, has the honour to enclose a copy of the press release issued by the Permanent Mission of Iraq on 3 May 1994, concerning a statement made by the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, Mr. Sa'adi Mahdi Saleh, on 17 April 1994.

The speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly expressed the readiness of the Iraqi National Assembly to receive a delegation from the Kuwaiti Parliament to discuss the issue of the so-called detaining of people from Kuwait in Iraq.

The Permanent Mission of Iraq would appreciate if this press release could be communicated to the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

PRESS RELEASE

The Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, Mr. Sa'adi Mahdi Saleh, made on 17 April 1994 a statement in reply to the address made by Sheikh Sa'ad Abdulla Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait, in which he stated that "The world has become like a big volcano, in which nobody knows when and where it may erupt. The small states stand terrified at this awful scene. They seek a shelter that would protect them from the devastating storms and where they can maintain their freedom and sovereignty and protect their entity and independence", in which the Speaker expressed the readiness of the Iraqi National Assembly to receive a delegation from the Kuwaiti Parliament to discuss all outstanding issues in such a manner that would serve the Arab cause and the interests of both sides, and to give this delegation full access to all information and facts which would confirm the invalidity of the allegation that Iraq is still detaining people from Kuwait.

In order to emphasize the earnestness of the Iraqi position, the Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly reaffirmed that, "Iraq has no objection to the participation of Arab parties, to be agreed upon, in this search. Iraq also has no objection for an Arab authority to undertake shuttle contacts between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Kuwaiti Parliament in order to arrive at a mature basic view in this direction and in order not to allow Kuwaiti Government officials to push matters to the worse, as they had previously done before 2 August 1990.

Instead of studying and considering the Iraqi initiative by the Kuwaiti side, it was rejected in a hurried and indeliberate manner through the statement issued by the Kuwaiti Parliament. They did not even make an effort to study its contents, which merit due attention, with a view to closing the past chapter and begin a new one where understanding prevails and to solving problems in a manner acceptable to all parties for the realization of stability in our area. The Kuwaiti reaction can be clearly seen in the text of the parliamentary statement, reading "this call cannot be considered but a mockery aiming to create dissension between brothers and friends. It is a sly trap in which Kuwait and its people will not be caught".

The statement of the Kuwaiti Parliament made irresponsible and unobjective remarks concerning Iraq, as if Kuwait were the party that determines the destiny of Iraq and its people. This negative response by Kuwait to the true and earnest wish by the Iraqi National Assembly to find a solution to the outstanding problems between the two parties, brings back to mind what happened prior to 2 August 1990 through the obduracy of Kuwait in refusing to resort to dialogue and pushing matters to the extent that took place, aiming once more at insisting on the pursuance of a course that persists in maintaining the tense situation that fails to serve the interests of the two parties.

Iraq, proceeding from its keenness to acquaint the Arab and world opinion with the Iraqi position, deems it vitally important to record the facts to history.

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